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The Balkan Slavs solidarity during the Great Eastern Crisis (1875–1878) and their assistance to Russia in the Russo-Turkish War (1877–1878)

Solidarność Słowian bałkańskich w czasie Wielkiego Kryzysu Wschodniego (1875-1878), a ich pomoc Rosji w wojnie rosyjsko-tureckiej (1877–1878)

Abstrakt: Niezdolność armii Imperium Osmańskiego do stłumienia buntu w Bośni i Hercegowinie w 1875 wywołała podniecenie wśród narodów słowiańskich na całych Bałkanach. Słowiańskie narody Bałkanów dołączyły do swoich braci z Bośni i Hercegowiny w walce przeciwko Turkom. W latach Wielkiego Kryzysu Wschodniego (1875-1878) Serbia i Czarnogóra wypowiedziała wojnę Imperium Osmańskiemu, a w Bułgarii i w Tureckiej Macedonii wybuchły liczne powstania. Narody bałkańskie wspierały się wzajemnie w walce przeciwko Imperium, pomogły także armii rosyjskiej w czasie wojny rosyjsko-tureckiej (1877–1878) wysyłając wolontariuszy, jak również ubrania, żywność, leki, itp, mając nadzieję, że wielki słowiański brat z północy pomoże im wypędzić Turków z Bałkan i przynieść im wyzwolenie i wolność.

Słowa kluczowe: Wielki Kryzys Wschodni, Imperium Osmańskie

Keywords: Big Crisis East, the Ottoman Empire

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Plight of the Christian Slav population in Bosnia and Herzegovina in the second half of the 19th century, culminated in 1875 with the uprising, which started the Great Eastern Crisis. The Inability of the Ottoman army to quickly put down the rebellion and the local population resistance, caused excitement amongst the Slavic people throughout the Balkans. They hoped that the time for their liberation from the Ottoman rule had come. As a result of that situation, the Slavic peoples of the Balkans joined their brothers from Bosnia and Herzegovina with the fight against the Ottomans. Not only did the Slavic people from the Balkans help the rebellion as volunteers, but they also made an attempt to rise against the Ottomans in their native regions. So in May 1876, there were uprisings first in Bulgaria and then in Macedonia later on.

The leader of the Razlovtsi Uprising in Macedonia, Dimitar Pop Georgiev Berovski was in Salonika where he heard of the Uprising in Bosnia and Herzegovina. His thoughts were on how he could help the rebels in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

In and around Salonika I was able to live without the Turkish authorities knowing of my whereabouts for half a year. Here I had chance to get detailed information about the Herzegovina Uprising. The opportunity allowed me to follow all the movements of the Turkish army on Land and at sea – when they arrived by train via Mitrovitsa on their way to Bosnia-Herzegovina. The largest movement of armies toward Bosnia-Herzegovina was around the end of 1875 and the

beginning of 1876. The news about the Hercegovina uprising, the movement of Turkish troops, and my situation became equally unbearable. My impatience grew from day to day. I decided to organize uprising in Macedonia in December of 1875, hoping to provide relief to the Hercegovina uprising by detaining part of the Turkish armies...¹

Unfortunately uprising in both Bulgaria and Macedonia were not successful and the Ottomans were strong enough to handle the small rebellions as their army was enormous compared to the force of the rebels. However the cruelty they showed and the massacre especially while putting down the “April Uprising” in Bulgaria attracted the interest of the great powers toward the events in the Balkan. In particularly the Pan-Slavic circles in Russia showed a great compassion to their Slavic brothers in the Balkans. One of the biggest supporters of the Pan-Slavic idea in Russia, Ivan Aksakov in one of his speeches to the Moscow Slavic committee called Russia “to go to justice and Holy war and to liberate the oppressed Slavic brothers in the Balkans”².

As the news of the Bosnian uprising broke out, the Serbian public was anxious to see the country at war with the Ottoman Empire to help their brothers in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Prince Milan knew that the Serbian army was not strong enough to oppose the Ottoman army, and the official Petrograd was giving advice to him to remain calm. Meanwhile, Aksakov and his Pan-Slavic friends in Russia were blaming their government for staying passive³.

Prince Milan then began to realize that he was not strong enough to oppose the will of the entire Serbian nation. Also, unofficial Russian newspapers, particularly those belonging to the powerful Pan-Slavist group, advised Serbia that the Russian people were in favor of war and that the Serbian government should not take the official instructions from Petrograd too seriously. These competing standards were expressed in the recommendations made to the Government by the Russian consul in Belgrade, Kartsov, who attempted to please both in the pacific Gorchakov and the warlike Pan-Slavists at whose head stood Gorchakov’s rival, the Russian ambassador at Constantinople, Ignatyev. The inconsistency of Russian diplomatists was the final straw that broke Prince Milan’s spirit, and in April, 1876, he made up his mind that war was inevitable⁴.

At the same time, the question of gathering together and organizing volunteer units from the various South Slav countries under Turkish rule was reviewed. Just before the war of 1876 began, volunteers from Bosnia, Herzegovina, Voivodina, Montenegro, Macedonia, Bulgaria, and Russia went to Serbia. Slovenians, Croatians,

¹ Л. Лубен, *Избрани текстови за историјата на Македонскиот народ (1800-1919)*, II дел (Скопје, 1976), 210.

² http://www.maticasrpska.org.rs/casopisi/slavistiku_67.pdf – Витомир Вулетич, *Иван Аксаков: Срби и Источно прашање*, Зборник матице српски за славистику (Нови Сад, 2005), 11.

³ Ibidem

⁴ V. Trivanovitch, *Serbia, Russia, and Austria during the Rule of Milan Obrenovich, 1868-78*, The Journal of Modern History, Vol. 3, No.3 (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, Sep., 1931), 429-30.

Poles, Czechs, Slovaks and others also volunteered. The Russian, Bulgarian and Macedonian volunteers were introduced into the eastern and southern sectors of the front.⁵ Macedonian migrant workers and immigrants in Serbia began to gather volunteers in Serbia and Romania and to form volunteer units, which together with the Serbian army were to start the war with Turkey. Also in Romania, volunteers from Bulgaria were gathering so they can help Serbia in the coming war. For example, the famous revolutionary leader, Dedo Ilyo Malesevski, picked volunteer regiment of 300 Macedonians; Kosta Shumenkovikj about 100; Jovan Mincikj about 100, and Despot Badzhovikj's volunteers participated in the war in Morava-Dobruja corps.

In addition, the Serbian border area preparations were made so that the Macedonian people can help the Serbian army, in order to prevent supplies getting to the Turkish army. In Kumanovo, Kriva Palanka and Skopje there were two trustees sent, who were required to make these preparations, due to the successful conduct of military operations from the Serbian army in the region.

With great enthusiasm and optimism Serbian people and the Balkan and South Slavic volunteers as well as volunteers from Russia and other European countries were waiting to start the war⁶.

After the formation of volunteer units and their short military training, these units were then sent to the Serbian-Turkish border, where they were gradually grouped in more places of the front line. Most of the commanders in the Serbian army were Russians. They played a great role in the process of the formation of the volunteer units and had the Mayor Nikolay Alekseevich Kireev. He was also a member of the higher Russian slavophile circles. Mayor Kireev died on the battlefield on July 6, 1876 and after his death the units went under the command of the General Chernaev⁷.

Within the general war plans and solutions to begin a rebellion of Christians in the Ottoman Empire, three Bulgarian (P. Hitov S. Sokolov, F. Fotju) and two Macedonian chetas (Ilyo Markov and Hristo Makedonski) received a task to go in Bulgaria and raise an uprising in order to help Serbia's war against Turkey. They responded positively to the task and in Bulgaria they had more clashes with the enemy, but with no greater success and once again they came back on Serbian territory.

Ilyo Markov Maleshevski and other Macedonian volunteers bravely fought on the side of Serbia in the war against Turkey, and as durable fighters they gained the

⁵ M. Pandevski, *Macedonia and the Macedonians in the Eastern Crisis*, translated from Macedonian by Alexandra Reinsford Gjuzelova (Skopje: Macedonian review editions, 1978), 48.

⁶ K. I. Iambazovski, *Одворот на Стара Србија и Македонија и македонското прашање од 1877-1878 г.*, Симпозиум Македонија во Источната криза 1875-1881 (Скопје, 1978), 336-337.

⁷ Манола Пандевски, *Македонското ослободително дело во XIX и XX век: прояви, релации, ликови, Там негми*, (Скопје: Мисла, 1987), 88-89.

sympathies of Serbian and Russian officers. Therefore many of them, including Ilyo were praised and rewarded with medals and stars⁸.

Instead of waging an offensive war, Serbia was thrown on the defensive for three weeks after the outbreak of the hostilities. In August, Prince Milan appealed for help to foreign powers. Through their intervention, a temporary armistice was concluded, but fighting was renewed in October and resulted in a decisive defeat for the Serbian army. The Serbian Government sent a desperate appeal for help to Russia. Under pressure from St. Petersburg, Turkey agreed to a two months armistice, from November 1, 1876, to January 1, 1877. Peace was signed on February 28, 1877, on the basis of the status quo ante bellum. Therefore, Serbia lost no territory and was not required to pay any reparations to Turkey⁹.

The Serbo-Turkish war of 1876 ended with the defeat of Serbia and became one of the reasons Russia declared war on Turkey (12/24 April 1877)¹⁰.

Russia as a protector of the Balkan Orthodox and Slavic people could not stay away and lose its prestige among the Balkan Slavs, especially after the massacre of Ottoman army on the Christian population. The emerging situation, pressure of public opinion and Pan-Slavic circles inside the country made the Emperor Alexander II after the Constantinople Conference (Dec. 1876-Jan 1877) and the London protocol (31 March) to declare a war on the Ottoman Empire, and to help the Balkan Slavic nations. Alexander II and a big part of the tsarist Government considered the movement of Balkan Slavs only from the perspective that was beneficial for Russia's foreign policy. It was decided in Petersburg that giving help to Balkan nations was necessary to strengthen Russian influence in this region and also to weaken Turkey. Officially, Tsar could have used humanitarian ideas in protecting Christian nations, which was indeed an undeniable fact, and also was in Russia's interest to become a superpower¹¹. The decision by Alexander II was made especially after he had effectively purchased the Austrian neutrality with the Reichstadt Agreement (July 8, 1876).

Once again euphoria was created, and hopes that the "big brother" from the north will win and bring freedom to the brotherly Slavic peoples, who in various ways tried to help the Russian army to bring the long-awaited victory.

For South Slavs, the Slavic idea meant a chance to get support and help from Russia in their effort to liberate themselves from the several century long foreign rule¹².

⁸ P. Поплазаров, *Албанскиот војвода И Лео Марков-Малишевски. Живот и дејност* (Скопје: Наша книга, 1978), 69–73

⁹ V. Trivanovitch, *Serbia*, 433.

¹⁰ P. , *Албанскиот*, 73.

¹¹ A. Breziński, *Polityka bałkańska Rosji a problem macedoński (1876-1879 r.)*, Кресненското востание во Македонија 1878-1879, Материјали од научниот собир одржан по повод 100-годишнината од востанието, Берово 2-4 октомври 1978 година (Скопје, 1982), 387.

¹² S. Terzić, *About eastern and western panslavism (in the XIX-th and the beginning of the XX-th century)*, Historical Review, Vol. LIII (Belgrade, 2006). 329; Russian Pan-Slavic circles had a little bit different views about the Slavic idea. Their

Following, the volunteers of the Serbo–Turkish were in favor of the Russian army penetrating in the Balkans. New volunteers mainly Bulgarians will be gathered in Russia and Romania to help the Russian army, hoping that it will bring freedom to their country.

At the end of April 1877 from Kishinev towards Ploesti trains set off, loaded with weapons, ammunition and equipment for the Bulgarian volunteers.

When Captain Rajcho Nikolow crossed the river Danube to warn of the impending Russian

attack on the Turks, he wrote “The appeal to my brothers”, in which he said:

Our Bulgarian brothers! The hour of liberation of our beloved and long-suffering country has come. Russian army reached the banks of the Danube. Russian offensive weapon proclaim our freedom... I am going to central gathering point of our teams in Ploesti and I'm taking with me a gun, clothes and other things necessary to our Bulgarian Army. Come to us in what you have, naked and barefoot, unarmed and uniform. We clothe you and give weapons. .. And more! Let heroes show their bravery on the battlefield¹³!

Every day, volunteers from 15 years old and up to 60 year old patriots, were coming. The headquarters of the Bulgarian militia each day received statements from Russian patriots to take them as ordinary volunteers. Russian instructors, led by the commander of the Bulgarian Militia, General Stoletov generously shared their experience and knowledge with their fellow Bulgarians. Without the material and moral support of Russia the Bulgarian squad (opolcenie)¹⁴ would not have been in such short period effectively prepared the Bulgarian volunteers, the number of which reached more than 7000 soldiers and sergeants. So Bulgarians assisted Liberation Army before it crossed the Danube and the entry on Bulgarian soil¹⁵.

When we learned of the Russian crossing of the Danube, who was in Rhodope mountain – we could not recover from the engulfed us all joy – wrote Petko Voyvoda.

The volunteers helped the Russian army in many ways. They fought next to the Russian soldiers and showed great courage and bravery in many battles, but sometimes they lost a lot of victims and lots of soldiers. That was the case with the battle for Stara Zagora (July 31, 1877) when a lot of Bulgarian volunteers were killed.

main goal was the liberation of all Slavic people from the Ottoman and Habsburg rule and organizing them into a federation of states in which Russia would have the leading role. But they had in mind the orthodox Slavs primarily. This was not the case when it came to the liberation of the polish territory from the tsarist rule for example. – Барбара Јелавич, *Историја на Балканот: осумнаесетти и деветнаесетти век, Том 1*, Превод на македонски јазик Мирјана Вељковиќ, (Скопје: Лист, 1999), 419. Наслов на оригиналот: Barbara Jelavich, *History of the Balkans Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries*, Volume 1.

¹³ <http://militera.lib.ru/h/genov/01.html>: *Генов II, Руско-турецка война 1877-1878 гг. и подвиг освободителей* (София: София Пресс, 1979).

¹⁴ For the Bulgarian squad (opolcenie) see: *Българското отъпление въ Освободителната война 1877–1878 години, Книжка 1-а отъ Българска Военно-историческа библиотека*, Министерство на войната. Щабъ на Армията – Военно-историческа комисия. (София: Държавна печатница, 1935)

¹⁵ *Генов II, Руско...*

Later, General Gurko, who was the head of the Russian army will mark the bravery of Bulgarian volunteer corps:

I am addressing you, Bulgarian companions. You went from 8 am to 2: 00 pm with amazing courage defending your home town. It was the first battle in which you have met the enemy and show themselves as heroes. Every Russian army would be proud of you...

For the wounded Russian soldiers the local population made improvised hospitals to heal them. Such was the case in Gabrovo, where the citizens provide the wounded Russian soldiers with clean clothes, medicines and took care of them till they recovered.

In every city or village where the Russian army had been, Russian soldiers were treated extremely well by the local population. Here are the impressions of the Russian writer Vsevolld Vladimirovich Kresovski who witnessed of the liberation of the Bulgarian town Trnovo by the Russian army –

Commander-Grand Duke arrived in Sofia on June 30 at 11 hours during the day and was greeted by people living there with such enthusiasm that is hard to pass by words. It will become clear when I say that this moment – the dawn of their freedom, the Bulgarians have waited more than four hundred years, has finally come! Men, women, girls and children with joyful tears threw themselves into the arms of everyone Russian soldier they met. Clergy greeted the Grand Duke with crosses and banners. Russian and Bulgarian flags decorated with myrtle and olive branches are waved over every Christian home. Bulgarians invited to their home all Russians and they offered them warm welcome under their roof and feast the soldiers. Even now calls for breakfasts, lunches, dinners have no end [...] The whole population rejoice, celebrate prayers, walking around our camp, where they spread the sound of military music and Russian songs to admire the Russian soldiers and brings to our horses hay and oats. In short, here everybody felt the time to feel the Slavic freedom and triumph of Christianity in the whole Balkan Peninsula has come¹⁶.

As the Russians were entering the Balkans they also sought for help from Serbia. Already at the end of 1876, the Tsar had written to the Prince of Serbia that in the case of a Russo-Turkish war he would expect “energetic co-operation” from Serbia. When the war broke out, Milan hastened to inform Alexander II that Serbia was ready to go to war, but that it needed 3, 000, 000 rubles for military equipment and in addition to this sum, a monthly assistance of 1, 000, 000 rubles throughout the duration of the war. When the Russian armies crossed the Danube, Serbia remained a neutral observer. In July, Osman Pasha fortified himself at Plevna, and the Russian advance was effectively stopped. On July 26, Prince Milan received a telegram from his representative at the Russian army headquarters stating that the Tsar wished Serbia to declare war on Turkey in 12 days. On July 27, Milan was informed that 1, 000, 000 silver rubles were being sent to him and that the Grand Duke Nicholas and General Ignatyev were beseeching him to comply with the Tsar’s request without fail. At the end of August, General Bobrikov came to Belgrade with a letter

¹⁶ *Руски пътници за българските земи XVII–XIX век*, Съставителство, предговор, коментар и бележки Маргарита Кожухарова (София: Издателство на Отечествения Фронт, 1986), 390.

from the Grand Duke Nicholas informing Prince Milan that “the co-operation of the Serbian army would be particularly useful at this moment”. Bobrikov’s mission was to examine the condition of the Serbian army and work out a plan for its co-operation with the Russian forces. The Serbian standing army was concentrated along the Turkish frontier waiting for further developments. About the middle of October, Prince Milan received an additional 500, 000 rubles, with which the equipment of the army was considerably improved. The question of crucial importance to Russia at this moment was to cut the connection between Plevna and Sofia, or at least to divert a part of the Turkish army that was centered near Sofia. This could be accomplished if Serbia promptly entered the war. On November 25, Prince Milan received a telegram from the Grand Duke Nicholas requesting him to officially cross the Turkish frontier in a period of ten days. At this time, Ristich declared war and on November 30, Bobrikov was informed by Prince Milan that Serbia was ready to fight on the side of Russia. War was declared on December 13, but three days before that date, the Russians took Plevna¹⁷. Even though the Russians took Plevna, the Serbians participation in the war was a relief and help for the Russian army.

Further, in the Russo-Turkish war a number of volunteers from Macedonia and other Balkan countries were also on the side of Russia and took part in the war. It was the result of years of pro-Russian and anti Ottoman propaganda and the fact that Russia with its anti Ottoman wars and other actions gained sympathy among the Slavic peoples of the Ottoman Empire.

In the Russo-Turkish War, Macedonian volunteers participated as combatants in volunteer detachments. They were probably formed at the initiative of the Russian consul in Bitola A.M. Hitrowo. According to the project of Hitrowo

[...] the troops supposed to lead a guerrilla war against the Turkish army, to keep the population in the mountains from the irregular Turkish army and mainly to supply the Russian army information about the enemy. But the activity and role of the volunteer units were much broader and more important, so they participated in more offensives in the front line and executed a number of tasks of prime importance¹⁸.

According to the Brigadier General Romanovich Ovsyani, a Russian military historian and geographer and most important a contemporary witness of many events in this war, the number of the Macedonian volunteer units varied from 30 to 60 members as in many cases the local population joined them and left them as soon as their place of living was liberated¹⁹.

¹⁷ V. Trivanovitch, *Serbia*, 435-437

¹⁸ P. Поплазаров, *Айдутициот*, 73-74; Manol Pandevski, *Macedonia*, 64-65

¹⁹ Ibidem, 66

The units worked with great devotion and made valuable services in overseeing the military wings, survey enemy positions, protecting small entrance, climb the Russian cannon on mountain positions, just as leaders and interpreters²⁰.

Macedonian commanders: Ilyo Markov, Georgi Antonov, George Pulevski, Dimitar Trifun, Grigor Ognenov, Ivancho Robev, and other volunteers were awarded with Russian military medals for bravery – “St. George”.

Many of the Russian generals and commanders were amazed by the bravery showed by the Macedonian volunteers in the Russo-Turkish war. When the war was over P.V. Alabin²¹ made a statement about the position of the Macedonian volunteers:

We had to satisfy more and other requirements to which I could not behave indifferently. For example, when the troops of Bulgarian Volunteer Corps, who with such an honor served their country resurrection, in numerous battles beyond Stara Planina and Rodhops were dismissed to go home it turned out that many of them had no money to return home. Most in need of financial assistance were the Macedonians, who were not able to return home, because their homeland is still occupied by the Turks. However, it is known that the Macedonians were the best people in the corps and with their courage and manhood in fighting amazed even our old soldiers. I have distributed to those Macedonians meals and 894 francs awaiting the possibility of their return to their homeland [...]²²

The Macedonians were not happy with the decisions of the Treaty on San Stefano (3 March 1878) and the Congress of Berlin (13 June – 13 July 1878), which left Macedonia under Ottoman rule. As such, the Macedonians organized the Macedonian Uprising (Kresna Uprising 1878-1879) hoping to achieve liberation from the Ottomans. The presence of the Macedonian volunteers in the Serbian army during the Serbo-Turkish war, and in the Russo-Turkish war is an indication of the mood of the Macedonians at that period – a mood that affected the uplifting of the people’s spirit²³.

At the time of the revolutionary growth fraternal assistance and solidarity was respected. Therefore, Georgi Pulevski appealed in “Makedonska pesnarka”: “Help us Slavic Brothers, we seek freedom, we seek justice from Europe”²⁴.

It was interesting how the volunteers were recruited. First the so-called ‘professionals’ were recruited who because of their combat experience through the revolutionary movement during the Eastern crisis in most of the Balkan countries. Basic

²⁰ P. Поглазаров, 76.

²¹ P. Vladimirovich Alabin (1824-1896), a Russian publicist, participated in the Russo-Turkish war 1877-1878 as a representative of the Russian Red Cross and a member of the Slavic committees in Sofia.

²² Документи за борбата на македонскиот народ за самостојност и национална држава, Т.1, уредила Христо Андонов-Полјански, ГЛВ. Алабин за учеството на македонски доброволци во војната за ослободување на Бугарија 1877–1878 г. (Скопје: Универзитет Св. Кирил и Методиј, 1981), 245

²³ I. Katardzhiev, *The Macedonian uprising in Kresna 1878*, Translated from Macedonian by John Swanson (Skopje: Grafichki zavod Gotsé Delchev, 1980), 26

²⁴ Б. Ристовски, *Ѓорѓија М. Пулевски и неговите книшки “Самовила македонска” и “Македонски песнарка”*, (Скопје: Институт за фолклор, 1973), 47

soldiers were recruited from the participants in the Bosnia uprising, Montenegrin-Turkish, Serbo-Turkish and Russo-Turkish War.

Mostly volunteers from the South Slavic peoples took part in the uprising. Thus, we find participants from Serbia in heterogeneous composition, and different centers: Belgrade, Smederevo, Knjazevac, Prizren, Vranje, Nish and others. Among the volunteers were commanders who took up command positions in the uprising such as Panta Veljkovic and Stephen Sreckovic.

In the Kresna Uprising, volunteers from Bosnia and Herzegovina participated. The uprising in Bosnia had strong influence in Macedonia, so now the Macedonians turned to the rebels from Bosnia and Herzegovina for help. Soldiers came from several centers in Bosnia and Herzegovina: Trebinje, Livno District and others. From the original documentation, we found out of the names of the participants, including the head of the uprising in Bosnia, Mico Ljubobratikj, who was also invited to take part in the rebellion.

Macedonian uprising involved volunteers from Montenegro, such as Peko Pavlovich who previously participated in the Bosnian Uprising as the flagship of the Montenegrin volunteers. There were also volunteers from Croatia such as Walter Schulze.

Also many volunteers arrived from Bulgaria, where there were more recruit centers for the Macedonian uprising. Some of them took and command positions in the uprising such as Bratan Marinov from the town of Teteven.

The Slovenian volunteer Miroslav Humbar also played a significant role in the Uprising. He organized the chetas (units) well and was responsible for the discipline among them.

Apart from South Slavic peoples, other nations also took part in the uprising. Also the Pole Louis Vojtkovich, and many Russian volunteers of which the most significant role had Mayor Adam Kalmikov played a big role in the uprising²⁵.

It's interesting to see the reaction of Greece during the Slavic movements in the years of the Great Eastern Crisis. A few examples of the statements of the Greek consuls in Ottoman Macedonia are indicative of how officially Greece looked at all those Slavic movements.

According to the Greek Vice-consul in Serres in early February there were several armed bands. Their commanders maintained ties with the Russians, who were in the neighboring areas and wanted to declare an uprising in these districts and in the Petrich area. Greek Vice Consul in Ceres assumed vigorous measures to deter commanders to give the movement "Slavic color". He was very worried be-

²⁵ X. Андонов-Полјански, *Странски доброволци во Кресненското востание*, Кресненското востание во Македонија 1878–1879, материјали од научниот собир одржан по повод 100-годишнината од востанието, Берово 2–4 октомври 1978 година (Скопје, 1982), 195–202.

cause he thought that “we are at the beginning of the Slavic movement in Macedonia”. That was not going in favor of the Greek cause in Macedonia. (289)²⁶.

In 1878, Greek Consul in Salonika said that he led the fight “against any tendency or attempt for participation of any part of Macedonia in revolutionary movements during the uprisings of other Slavic peoples²⁷”.

Greek authorities were afraid of a big Slavic movement in the Balkan supported by Russia. In that case they won't get anything or very little of the yet not liberated territories of the Ottoman Empire.

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²⁶ Р. Поплазаров, *Востанички и други вооружени акции во Македонија во 1878 г. според грчки конзулски извештаи*, Симпозиум Македонија во Источната криза 1875-1881, (Скопје, 1978), 289

²⁷ Ibidem

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